I join my fellow Minnesotans in wishing a warm welcome home to all the members of Minnesota National Guard units returning from service in Iraq. You have served our state and our nation with courage, honor and dignity. We will never forget the sacrifices you have made, and we are grateful for your safe return to your families.

I hope the list of resources below will be helpful as you transition back into life at home. If you have questions or need more assistance with any aspect of reintegration, please contact my St. Paul Office at 651-224-9191.

- **EDUCATION BENEFITS UPDATE:** <u>Click here</u> for the latest on Congress' efforts to restore wrongfully denied education benefits for 1/34th BCT members.

Resources for Returning National Guard Members:

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon This program provides reintegration guidance from the MN National Guard. The website offers a " Roadmap to " with a with a serious provides reintegration guidance from the MN National Guard. The website offers a " Roadmap to " with a reintegration reintegration reintegration guidance from the MN National Guard. The website offers a " Roadmap to " with a reintegration reintegration

checklist of steps for transitioning back into civilian life, as well as helpful information on health, family, benefits, legal issues, employment, and education for returning Guard members.

<u>Veterans Information Portal</u> This site from the Department of Veterans Affairs is a valuable one-stop shop for veterans services, benefits, and programs. It offering links to many resources, including "how to" instructions on applying for VA home loans, accessing health care benefits, and other important services.

<u>DOD Military Transitioners Portal</u> This is a Department of Defense website designed specifically to assist Service members leaving active duty. This site should be used as part of a comprehensive program of transition and employment assistance.

Veterans Linkage Line: 1-888-LinkVet (1-888-546-5838) *LinkVet is a toll-free, one-stop customer sevice line for all Minnesota veterans.*

Minnesota Veteran One Stop Website This website was developed to provide Minnesota Veterans, their families and employers with a one stop location for information and links available for veterans.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve This Department of Defense organization works to help resolve conflicts between Guard or Reserve members and their

civilian employers that arise from employees' military commitments. It also promotes cooperation and understanding between employers and employees.